



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 139

January Session, 2017

Substitute House Bill No. 7181

House of Representatives, March 22, 2017

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs reported through REP. HENNESSY of the 127th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT HONORING DECEASED VETERANS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 27-76 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 When requested by the commander of any accredited veteran
4 organization or by friends or relatives of any deceased person who has
5 served in any of the armed forces of the United States during time of
6 war, as defined by section 27-103, or who has served in the National
7 Guard for more than twenty years or who has died while a member of
8 the National Guard, the Adjutant General shall order an honor guard
9 detail from the National Guard, the naval militia, the State Guard or
10 the organized militia to attend the funeral, except that if an honor
11 guard detail from such guard or militia is unavailable or committed
12 elsewhere, the Adjutant General shall request an honor guard detail
13 from a bona fide Connecticut state veterans' organization, provided
14 such detail shall comply with the rules and procedures set forth in
15 Connecticut National Guard regulation 37-106. Such detail shall consist

16 of not more than five members plus one bugler. The members thereof
17 shall be compensated at the rate of fifty dollars per day. Such
18 compensation shall be paid from funds appropriated to the Adjutant
19 General for the pay of the National Guard and from federal funds
20 received for that purpose. Such funds appropriated to the Adjutant
21 General shall be in an amount sufficient to ensure any such honor
22 guard detail includes not less than two and not more than three
23 riflemen or riflewomen.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	27-76
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VA *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 18 \$	FY 19 \$
Military Dept.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires that amount appropriated to the Military Department is sufficient to ensure that two or three riflemen appear at veterans' funerals. The per diem payment is \$50 for the riflemen and there are approximately 4,000 funeral honors per year. An appropriation of \$340,000 would allow two rifleman and \$510,000 would provide three. The Governor's Budget provides funding of \$515,210 in both FY 18 and FY 19.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7181*****AN ACT HONORING DECEASED VETERANS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the state to provide sufficient funds to ensure an honor guard at the funeral of eligible wartime veterans or certain National Guard members that includes at least two but not more than three riflemen or riflewomen.

Federal law currently requires and funds at least two uniformed persons who fold the U.S. flag and present it to the veteran's family (10 U.S.C. § 1491). Current state law requires the adjutant general to provide, upon request, an honor guard of up to five members and one bugler. The members are paid \$50 per day. The bill specifies that these five members must include at least two but not more than three riflemen or riflewomen.

The following are eligible for military funeral honors under state law: wartime veterans and anyone who served in the National Guard for more than 20 years or who died while serving in the Guard. A wartime veteran is someone who served at least 90 days in a time of war (see Table 1 below) in the U.S. Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Air Force and any reserve component of these branches, including the Connecticut National Guard performing duty under Title 32 of federal law).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Service During Time of War***

Table 1: Post-1940 "Service in Time of War"

Operation	Date	Service Condition
World War II	12/07/41-12/31/47*	Active service during the war
Korean War	06/27/50-01/31/55	Active service during the war
Lebanon Conflict	07/01/58-11/01/58 or 09/29/82-03/30/84	Combat or combat-support role in Lebanon
Vietnam Era	02/28/61-07/01/75	Active service during the war
Grenada invasion	10/25/83-12/15/83	Combat or combat-support role in Grenada
Operation Earnest Will (escort of Kuwaiti tankers flying U.S. flag in Persian Gulf)	07/24/87-08/01/90	Combat or combat-support role
Panama invasion	12/20/89-01/31/90	Combat or combat-support role
Persian Gulf War	08/02/1990 until a date prescribed by the President or law	Active-service anywhere during the war (not necessarily in the Persian Gulf or in a combat role)

*Ending dates specified in [CGS § 12-86](#) for property tax exemptions.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/02/2017)